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What
Methodist Church
is doing for our
Soldiers in Camp

SENIOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

(ILLUSTRATED)

BRISBANE, JUNE, 1916.

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OUR WORK WITH THE SOLDIERS

IN THE BRISBANE CAMPS

FROM the commencement of the war, when the Ninth Battalion of the First Contingent of the Australian Imperial Forces was mobilised at Enoggera, until the present time, the Methodist Church has been at work in the camp. The Methodist people will be interested to know what has been done, and what is being done, for the welfare of our soldiers. A visit to the camp would make a favourable impression on the most casual observer. But as few of our people are able to see the men in camp, the publication of a report is necessary.

The question has been asked, "What is the Church doing?" This illustrated report will, it is hoped, convey to its readers some idea of the nature and extent of the good work carried on by our military chaplains.

The camp at Brisbane, which has had as many as 15,000 men under canvas at one time, covers a wide area of country. Its headquarters are at Enoggera, with depots at Rifle Range, Bell's Paddock, Thompson's Paddock, Fraser's Hill, Chermside, and the Exhibition Grounds, in which all branches of the army are represented. The respective localities are pleasantly situated, as will be seen in the view of Fraser's Hill, the depot for the recruits. From all parts of Queensland and from the Northern Rivers of New South Wales have come the best young men of all sorts and conditions of social life. Their training occupies from six weeks to six months, perhaps the average time in camp would be about three months. From "Re-ville," at 5.30 a.m., to the "Last Post," at 9.30 p.m., the men are continuously under training, excepting the brief respite for rest and refreshments, and occasional leave.

It is under these conditions, different probably from any that the Chaplains have previously experienced, that the spiritual training of the men is done. The physical and military training is compulsory, but the spiritual training is voluntary. No soldier is compelled to attend any religious service. It speaks well for both Chaplains and men that the Church Parades are well attended.

Each Sabbath morning at 6.30 o'clock in summer, and 7 o'clock in winter, six combined Church Parades are conducted by six Presbyterian and Methodist Chaplains. The form of service issued



SOLDIERS' REST, FRASER'S HILL CAMP

to the men on parade provides for their taking a greater part in the service than our people do in their own churches. It is inspiring to hear, as your Chaplains have heard on several occasions in our camp, over two thousand men singing the grand old hymns, such as "All people that on earth," "Jesu, lover of my soul," "Nearer, my God, to Thee," and "Fight the good fight." It is more impressive to hear the Chaplains and the men in the antiphonal reading of the xlvi Psalm, "God is our refuge and strength," followed by all repeating together the Apostle's Creed. The Chaplain's address must be within fifteen minutes, or he is in danger of exciting the Battalion cough so prevalent in the army at Church Parades before breakfast. But the Chaplain can usually give his message in that period of time, and he has as devout and attentive a congregation as in times of peace within the church.

The Church Parades, important as they are, constitute the least of the work of the Chaplains. Hospitals must be visited. The camp includes four hospitals, namely, the Clearing Hospital at Rifle Range, Headquarters' Hospital, Rosemount Hospital, and Kangaroo Point Hospital, and should these be full, sick cases are sent to the General Hospital. The Chaplains visit regularly the sick soldiers, and when too ill, or forbidden to write for fear of spreading any infection, the Chaplain writes to the mothers on behalf of their sons to report how they are. The work includes everything that a comrade can do for a



Senior Chaplain Colonel G. E. Rowe, D.D., V.D.



Chaplain Lt.-Colonel A. C. Plane, V.D.

comrade, for that is the relation which the Chaplain has to the men in camp. He is friend, and counsellor, and helper, using every opportunity for spiritual service.

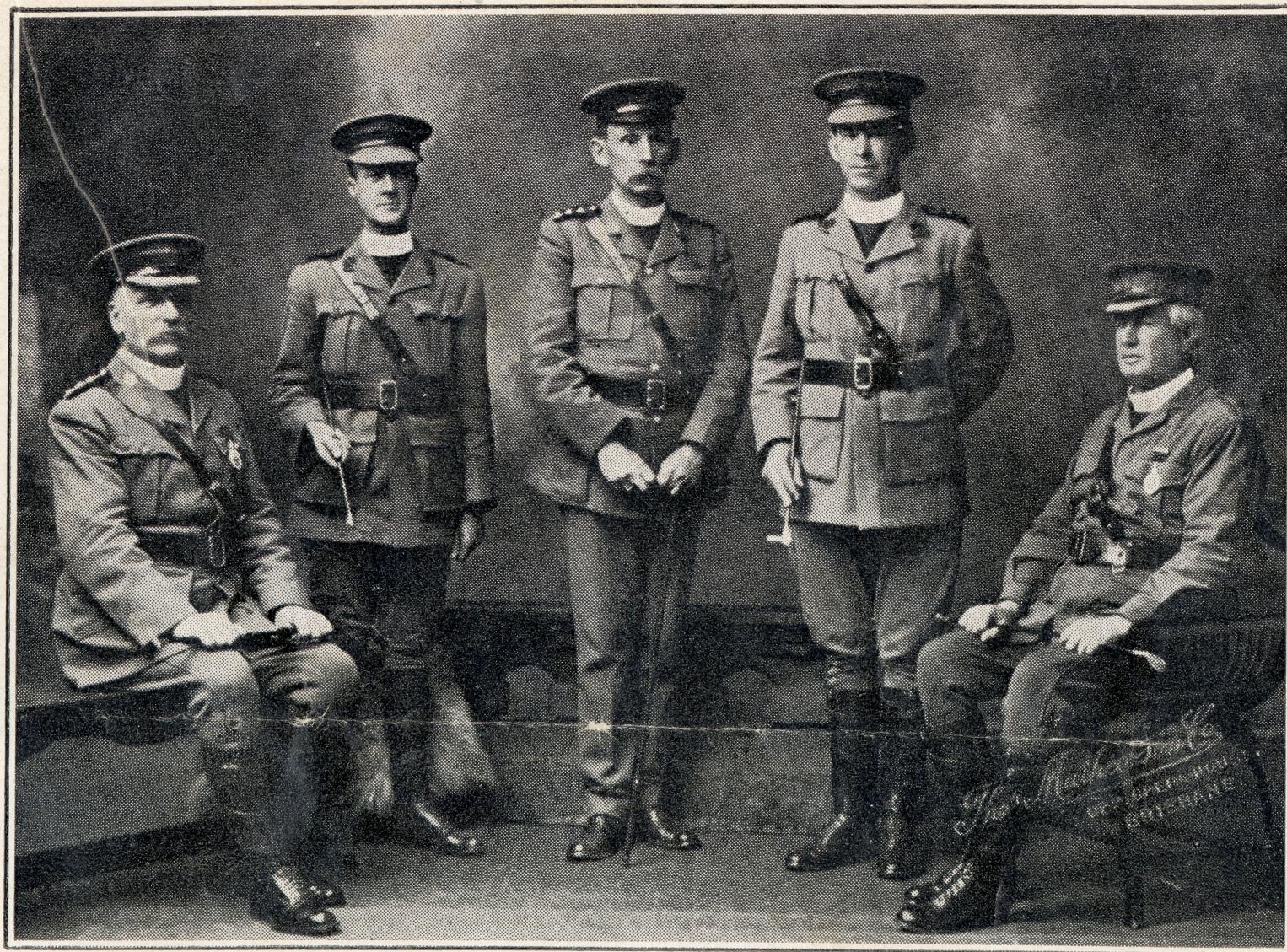
The Methodist Church has set apart three of its ministers as Camp Chaplains, to reside in camp with the men and devote their whole time to that work. The Camp Chaplains are assisted by Chaplain Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Plane, V.D., and the Senior Chaplain, under whose direction they act. Chaplain Captain W. Pensfield Brown is the Camp Chaplain for the men in Bell's Paddock, Rifle Range, Alderley, and the Clearing Hospital; Chaplain Captain G. W. Pittendrigh is Camp Chaplain for Fraser's Hill, Thompson's Paddock, Headquarters, and Headquarters' Hospital; and Chaplain Captain F. J. Harris is Camp Chaplain for Chermside, Exhibition, and Rosemount Hospital.

The entire cost for the support of these Chaplains is defrayed by the Home Mission Society of our Church.

For the use of the men in camp the Methodist Church has erected four Rest Tents, of which the photograph of the Rest Tent in Bell's Paddock may be taken as a sample of the others. These Tents have been furnished with chairs, tables, literature, writing paper, envelopes, pens, ink, etc., for the free use of the soldiers.

The tents at Bell's Paddock, Thompson's Paddock, Chermside,

OUR MILITARY CHAPLAINS



Senior Chaplain Rev. Dr. G. E. Rowe, V.D.; Chaplain Rev. F. J. Harris; Chaplain Rev. W. Penfield Brown;
Chaplain Rev. G. W. Pittendrigh; and Chaplain Rev. A. C. Plane, V.D.

and the Exhibition Grounds, have been in constant use, and are greatly appreciated.

A more permanent structure has been erected and opened at Fraser's Hill, views of which are given in the report. A similar building is being erected at Rifle Range. The Soldiers' Rests are ideal structures, commodious, lofty, well ventilated, and comfortable. They are complete with almost every necessity, and without any extravagance. They are suitable for all the requirements of the work in camp. Ample facilities for men to rest when off duty or unwell, accommodation for correspondence, reading, and social games, and the whole structure is arranged for its chief object, devotional meetings, gospel services, and Church Parades. The Presbyterian Church, in response to the invitation of our Home Mission Committee, has joined forces with us in the cost and up-keep of these Soldiers' Rests, and will contribute one-half of the entire amount. In each building there is a room for the Presbyterian and for the Methodist Chaplains, and the buildings will be under joint management, and open to all soldiers. The relationship between the two Churches is most fraternal and helpful. Each Tuesday morning a conference of the Presbyterian and Methodist Chaplains is held in Albert Street Church vestry to consider the work of the past week, and to arrange the work for the coming week. There is no friction



SOLDIERS' REST TENT, BELL'S PADDock

nor over-lapping in our work at the camp. There is much to encourage, and the "Best of all is, God is with us."

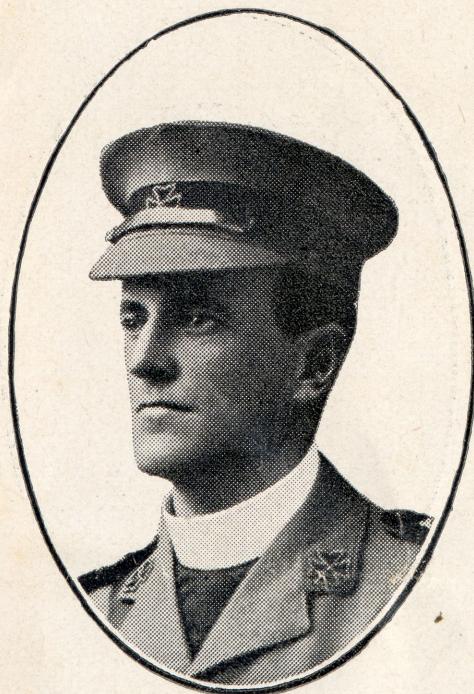
The cost of the up-keep of this work, including the support of the Camp Chaplains, the up-keep of the Rest Tents, the half of the cost of the Soldiers' Rests, and the supply of writing paper, envelopes, lighting, etc., will be about £1,200 for the year. The Methodist Church will willingly contribute this amount towards the spiritual equipment of our soldiers. The State supplies the physical and military equipment, and it is of the best, as it should be. Through the Red Cross organisation many of the necessary physical comforts are provided. But the privilege of supplying the highest, the deepest, and the greatest need of our soldiers rests on the Church of God, and on the Church of God alone.

To each reader of this report the appeal for sympathetic and practical help is made in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Help your Church and your ministers to assist your soldier boys in the Fight of Faith, that they may also be victorious for King and Country. Contributions will be gladly received by your minister and faithfully applied to the spiritual efficiency of the soldiers.

The illustrations include portraits of the three Methodist Chaplains on active service at the Front, and for whom your prayers are asked.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

CHAPLAINS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.



Chaplain Captain A. A. Mills,
A.I.F.



Chaplain Captain D. S. Brumwell,
A.I.F.



Chaplain Captain W. S. Bath,
A.I.F.

OUR CAMP CHAPLAINS.



Chaplain Captain G. W. Pittendrigh,
Fraser's Hill, Camp



Chaplain Captain W. Penfield Brown,
Bell's Paddock, Enoggera



Chaplain Captain F. J. Harris
Chermside Camp



FRASER'S HILL CAMP—With Soldiers' Rest amongst the Tents

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